

Message Text

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ORIGIN MMO-02

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NASA:SDOYLE (SUBSTANCE)

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TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TSPA, AODE, NL

SUBJECT: MODE - NASA REQUEST TO ASSIGN AN ADDITIONAL
OFFICER TO ESTEC SPACELAB PROJECT

1. NASA HAS FILED URGENT REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF SOFTWARE MANAGER WITHIN THE SPACELAB PROJECT TEAM AT THE EUROPEAN SPACE TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING CENTER (ESTEC), NOORDWIJK. NASA OFFICER BILL HAMON HAS GENERAL BACKGROUND. DIRECTOR GENERAL GIBSON OF EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA) HAS REQUESTED, AND NASA HEADQUARTERS IS PREPARED TO ASSIGN, FOR THE POSITION, GS-15 STEPHEN COPPS (NASA DIVISION DIRECTOR FOR ENERGY SYSTEMS STUDIES AND ANALYSES). THEY HAVE A TARGET REPORTING DATE OF AUGUST 16, 1976.

2. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ASSIGNMENT DERIVES FROM ARTICLE X
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OF 1973 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NASA AND ESA,

IN WHICH NASA ENGAGED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS REQUIRED BY ESA AND ITS CONTRACTORS FOR SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE SPACELAB PROGRAM. NASA IS CONCERNED THAT SPACELAB'S COMPUTER SOFTWARE EFFORT IS LAGGING BEHIND SCHEDULE; COPPS HAS NECESSARY SKILLS AS SOFTWARE MANAGER

(NOT AVAILABLE IN ESA) TO ENSURE THAT SOFTWARE SEGMENT OF PROGRAM KEEPS PACE WITH SPACELAB HARDWARE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT.

3. PARTLY BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS KNOWN TO EMBASSY (HAGUE 0993, FEBRUARY 24) NASA REP PAT MURPHY HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH ESA AT PARIS CONCERNING PRIVILEGES AND EXPENSES FOR NASA PERSONNEL BEING ASSIGNED TO WORK ON ESA PROJECTS IN EUROPE. HAMON HAS DETAILS OF LATEST PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY ESA DG GIBSON. THESE ARRANGEMENTS ALSO TOUCH UPON EMPLOYEES' STATUS VIS-A-VIS MEMBER HOST GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING DUTCH, AND NASA IS LOOKING TO ESA TO INTERCEDE WITH THOSE GOVERNMENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, USG PERSONNEL DETAILED TO ESA WORK WILL COME WITHIN AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF U.S. AMBASSADOR PURSUANT TO SECTION 12, P.L. 93-475. MOREOVER, THEIR STATUS AND PRIVILEGES SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN LIGHT OF AUGUST 14, 1973 MULTILATERAL SPACELAB AGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S. AND CERTAIN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. IN ARTICLE TEN OF THAT AGREEMENT SIGNATORIES HAVE ENGAGED TO FACILITATE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS AND MATERIALS, INCLUDING, FOR NON-GOVERNMENT OWNED MATERIALS, BEST EFFORTS TO ACCORD ENTRY FREE OF CUSTOMS DUTIES AND PURCHASE FREE OF TAXES. SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT EMBASSY CHECK INTO THESE EVOLVING ARRANGEMENTS TO ASSURE CONSISTENCY WITH ANY COM REQUIREMENTS. UNDERSTAND NASA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR ARNOLD FRUTKIN HAS DISCUSSED GENERAL SITUATION BY TELEPHONE WITH AMBASSADOR GOULD.

4. NASA HEADQUARTERS STATES ESA HAS ALSO REQUESTED DETAIL OF ADDITIONAL NASA PERSONNEL TO WORK ON SPACELAB PROJECT. (SPECIFICS STILL BEING WORKED OUT). THUS COPPS CASE MAY SET PRECEDENTS FOR HANDLING THIS CATEGORY OF EMPLOYEES. THERE APPEAR TO BE STRONGER BASES FOR SEEKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FAVORABLE STATUS FOR HIM VIS-A-VIS DUTCH GOVERNMENT THAN WAS THE CASE WITH BROOKS, OYLER AND HAUFF, WHOSE WORK STUDY ASSIGNMENTS OCCURRED AT NASA INITIATIVE (STATE 42743 AND HAGUE 0993).

5. DEPARTMENT POUCHED TO EMBASSY ADMIN OFFICER POGUE ON AUGUST 7 COPY OF NASA PARIS TELEGRAM 22379 TO NASA WASHINGTON, DATED AUGUST 2, ALONG WITH OTHER MATERIALS

RELATING TO THIS NASA REQUEST. WE NOTE THAT
TELEGRAM 22379 SUGGESTS PAY AND ALLOWANCES WILL BE MADE
VIA USG (I.E., EMBASSY) CHANNELS. HOWEVER, ESA IS TO
PROVIDE OR FUND MOST ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. IN MODE

CEILING CONTROL CONTEXT, ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION FOR
COPPS CAN BE OFFSET WITHIN CURRENT NASA OVERSEAS CEILING.
NASA ANTICIPATES HIS ASSIGNMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR ONE
TO TWO YEARS. COPPS WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE AND
THREE YOUNG CHILDREN.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. WOULD APPRECIATE COM COMMENTS CON-
CERNING NASA REQUEST, INCLUDING INDICATION AS TO RELATION-
SHIP WHICH COPPS SHOULD HAVE TO EMBASSY PLUS ANY AP-
PROACH THAT HAS BEEN OR SHOULD BE MADE TO DUTCH GOVERN-
MENT REGARDING COPPS' STATUS. DEPARTMENT IS RELUCTANT
FOR COPPS TO EOD PENDING RESOLUTION OF HIS STATUS. KISSINGER

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Draft Date: 12 AUG 1976
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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